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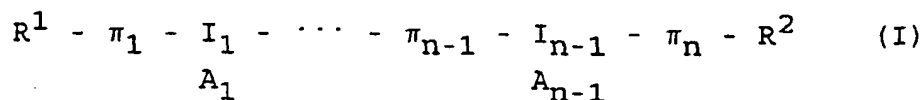
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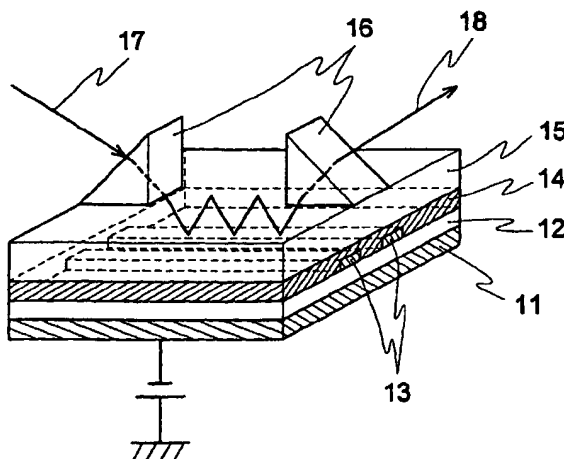
(54) Organic nonlinear optical material and nonlinear optical element using the same

(57) An organic material for nonlinear optical elements is provided comprising a compound having the iodonium salt structure represented by the general formula (I):



wherein π_1 to π_n are the same or different and each is a group having π electron, I_1 to I_{n-1} are iodonium cations, A_1 to A_{n-1} are the same or different and each is a counter anion for the iodonium cation, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an electron donor group, and n is an integer of 2 to 4. The material has large nonlinear optical constants and shows no light absorption in the visible light region.

FIG. 7



EP 0 867 753 A1

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Description

The present invention relates to an organic nonlinear optical material. Such a material can be utilized as a material for nonlinear optical elements, such as waveguides and the like, which constitute optically functional devices, such as electrooptical devices, all optical devices and the like, for use in optical communication, optical computer and the like.

Since nonlinear optical materials are those showing second-order or third-order nonlinear optical response in electric field of light and have functions such as amplification, oscillation, wavelength conversion, refractive index conversion and the like, they are said to be a fundamental material for optical communication, optical computer and the like. Inter alia, nonlinear optical materials showing third-order nonlinear optical response display nonlinear refractive index effect and optical bistability, and hence, they are expected to be applied to high-speed optical switch, optical logical element, optical memory and the like.

However, the conventional organic nonlinear optical materials are excellent in high-speed responsiveness as compared with inorganic materials but have small third-order nonlinear optical properties. As a result, they have been hardly applied to the aforementioned devices. For example, organic nonlinear optical materials described in Hachiro Nakanishi and Shuji Okada, "Third-order Nonlinear Optical Materials and Their Applications", O plus E, 1996, No. 4, pages 68-74 have small third-order nonlinear optical constant $\chi^{(3)}$ of 10^{-10} to 10^{-12} esu as obtained by third harmonic generation measurement and have not been applied to electrooptical devices, all optical devices and the like for use in optical communication, optical computer and the like. In addition, since the aforementioned $\chi^{(3)}$ values are those obtained by utilizing the resonance state of molecules, there is a problem on the thermal stability of the materials. Thus, it is difficult to permanently use the organic nonlinear optical material in the above-mentioned elements. Further, since the conventional organic nonlinear optical materials exhibit a great light absorption in the visible region, the application of the materials to the aforementioned elements is unsuitable due to their large light transmission loss.

As described above, there is a problem that since the conventional organic nonlinear optical materials have small nonlinear optical constants, such nonlinear optical constants are those obtained by utilizing the resonance state of molecules and the materials themselves exhibit a great light absorption in the visible region, they have not been applied to electrooptical devices, all optical devices and the like for use in optical communication, optical computer and the like.

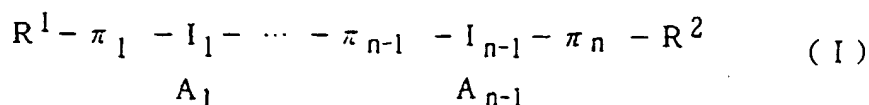
In view of the foregoing, it is an object of the present invention to provide an organic nonlinear optical material which has nonlinear optical properties superior to those of the conventional organic nonlinear optical materials and which can be applied to electrooptical devices, all optical devices and the like for use in optical communication, optical computer and the like.

Another object of the present invention to provide a nonlinear optical element using the organic nonlinear optical material.

Still another object of the present invention to provide a nonlinear optical device using the nonlinear optical element.

The present invention provides organic nonlinear optical materials and a nonlinear optical element as follows:

(1) An organic nonlinear optical material comprising a compound having the iodonium salt structure represented by the general formula (I):



wherein π_1 to π_n are the same or different and each is an atomic group having π electron, I_1 to I_{n-1} are an iodonium cation, A_1 to A_{n-1} are the same or different and each is a counter anion for the iodonium cation, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an electron donative group, and n is an integer of 2 to 4.

(2) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (1), wherein π_1 to π_n are the same or different and each is an atomic group selected from the group consisting of benzene, biphenyl, thiophene, acetylene, ethynylbenzene, diethynylbenzene, vinylbenzene, naphthalene and anthracene.

(3) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (1) or (2), wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, alkoxy group, hydroxyl group, amino group, dialkylamino group, alkyl group and trialkylsilyl group.

(4) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (2) or (3), wherein in the general formula (I), $n=2$, $\pi_1 = \pi_2 =$ benzene ring, $A_1 =$ trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, $R^1 = H$ and $R^2 =$ methoxy group.

(5) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (2) or (3), wherein in the general formula (I), $n=3$, $\pi_1 = \pi_2 = \pi_3 =$ benzene ring, $A_1 = A_2 =$ trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, $R^1 = H$ and $R^2 =$ methoxy group.

(6) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (2) or (3), wherein in the general formula (I), $n=2$, $\pi_1=\pi_2$ =biphenyl ring, A_1 =trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, $R^1=H$, and R^2 =methoxy group.

(7) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (2) or (3), wherein in the general formula (I), $n=3$, $\pi_1=\pi_3$ =benzene ring, π_2 =thiophene ring, $A_1=A_2$ =trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, and $R^1=R^2=H$.

(8) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (2) or (3), wherein in the general formula (I), $n=3$, $\pi_1=\pi_3$ =thiophene ring, π_2 =benzene ring, $A_1=A_2$ =trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, and $R^1=R^2=H$.

(9) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (2) or (3), wherein in the general formula (I), $n=3$, $\pi_1=\pi_2$ =benzene ring, π_3 =phenyleneethynylene group, $A_1=A_2$ =trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, and $R^1=R^2=H$.

(10) The organic nonlinear optical material set forth in (2) or (3), wherein in the general formula (I), $n=3$, $\pi_1=\pi_2$ =benzene ring, π_3 =ethynylene group, $A_1=A_2$ =trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, and $R^1=H$, and R^2 =t-butyl group.

(11) An organic nonlinear optical material comprising at least one compound represented by the general formula (I), set forth in any one of (1) to (10), wherein the compound is dissolved or dispersed in a low-molecular compound, a high-molecular compound or a liquid medium.

(12) A nonlinear optical element usable as a light transmitting medium having a nonlinear refractive index or a nonlinear absorption coefficient in combination with an optical element in a nonlinear optical device,

the nonlinear optical element comprising an organic nonlinear optical material set forth in any one of (1) to (11).

(13) A nonlinear optical device of a waveguide structure comprising a light transmitting medium as a waveguide in combination with an optical element, the light transmitting medium comprising a nonlinear optical element set forth in (12).

(14) The device set forth in (13), which is capable of performing a switching operation by application of a modulated electric field.

(15) The device set forth in (13), wherein the light transmitting medium has a bulk type structure.

(16) The device set forth in (13), wherein the light transmitting medium has an optical fiber structure.

Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing three transition processes contributing to second-order hyperpolarizability γ of a molecule.

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) obtained with respect to Compound No. 1 used in Example 1.

Fig. 3 is ultraviolet and visible absorption spectra (measured and calculated) of Compound No. 1 used in Example 1.

Fig. 4 is a schematic view showing the structure of a slab type waveguide according to the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a graph showing the properties of optical bistable device of Example 26.

Fig. 6 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical switching device with Mach-Zehnder type waveguide according to the present invention.

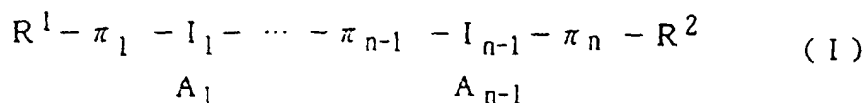
Fig. 7 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical switching device with field modulation type waveguide according to the present invention.

Fig. 8 is a schematic view showing the arrangement of a bulk type optical Kerr shutter device according to the present invention.

Fig. 9 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical fiber type optical Kerr shutter element according to the present invention.

The present invention will be described in detail.

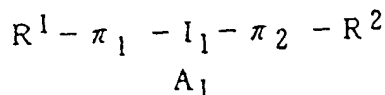
The organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention comprises a compound having the iodonium salt structure represented by the general formula (I):



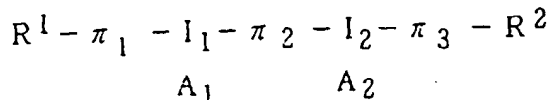
wherein π_1 to π_n are the same or different and each is an atomic group having π electron, I_1 to I_{n-1} are an iodonium cation, A_1 to A_{n-1} are the same or different and each is a counter anion for the iodonium cation, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an electron donative group, and n is an integer of 2 to 4.

The compounds represented by the aforementioned general formula (I) include the following three types depending upon the number of n .

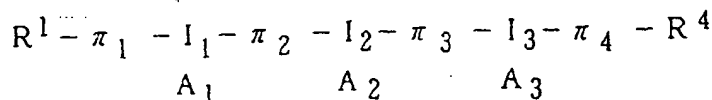
$$n = 2$$



$$n = 3$$



$$n = 4$$



The atomic group having π electron represented by π_1 to π_n , which constitutes the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention is not limited to specified one as long as it complies with the aforementioned definition. Examples thereof include ethylene, acetylene, benzene, vinylbenzene, ethynylbenzene, diethynylbenzene, biphenyl, naphthalene, anthracene, aniline, carbazole, thiophene, furan, pyrrole, imidazole, selenophene, pyridine, quinoline, pyrazine, quinoxaline, purine, and derivatives thereof. Although all these compounds can be used, those that constitute π -conjugated system throughout the entire molecule are desirable from the viewpoint of nonlinear optical properties and optical responsibility. In view of this, one or a combination of two or more selected from the group consisting of benzene, biphenyl, thiophene acetylene, ethynylbenzene, diethynylbenzene, vinylbenzene, naphthalene and anthracene is preferable.

These compounds are each present as a bivalent atomic group in the molecule of the compound represented by the general formula (I). However, the compound which is bonded to R^1 or R^2 is monovalent atomic group when R^1 or R^2 is H.

In addition, the counter anion represented by A_1 to A_{n-1} which constitutes the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention is not limited to specified one as long as it complies with the aforementioned definition. Examples thereof include anions such as trifluoromethanesulfonate, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate, hexafluoroantimonate, methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, and derivatives thereof. Although all these anions can be used, those having great anionic properties are desirable from the viewpoint of the stability of the iodonium salt structure. In view of this, anions such as trifluoromethanesulfonate, hexafluoroantimonate, methanesulfonate and p-toluenesulfonate are particularly preferable.

Further, the electron donative group represented by R^1 and R^2 which constitutes the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention is not limited to specified one as long as it complies with the aforementioned definition. Examples thereof include alkoxy groups having 1 to 3 carbon atoms such as methoxy group, ethoxy group and propoxy group, hydroxy group, amino group, dialkylamino groups wherein amino group is substituted with alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms such as dimethylamino group, diethylamino group and dipropylamino group, alkyl groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms such as methyl group, ethyl group, propyl group, n-butyl group, t-butyl group and hexyl group, trialkylsilyl groups wherein silyl group is substituted with alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms such as trimethylsilyl group, triethylsilyl group and tripropylsilyl group, and derivatives thereof. Although all these groups can be used, groups having great electron donative property are desirable from the viewpoint of nonlinear optical properties and optical responsibility and the stability of the iodonium salt structure. In view of this, methoxy group, ethoxy group, t-butyl group, hydroxyl group, amino group, dimethylamino group, diethylamino group and trimethylsilyl group are particularly preferable.

With reference to the drawings, it will be described that the aforementioned organic nonlinear optical material shows high nonlinear optical properties.

Using three-level model, second-order hyperpolarizability γ of molecule can be described by the following equation:

$$\gamma = \gamma_I + \gamma_{II} + \gamma_{III} \quad (II)$$

wherein γ_I , γ_{II} and γ_{III} are as follows:

$$\gamma_I \propto \mu_{01}^4 D_{11} \quad (III)$$

$$\gamma_{II} \propto \mu_{01}^2 \mu_{12}^2 D_{121}$$

$$\gamma_{III} \propto \mu_{01}^2 (\mu_{11} - \mu_{00})^2 D_{111}$$

wherein μ_{01} is transition dipole moment to one-photon state, and μ_{12} is transition dipole moment between one-photon state and two-photon state. D_{1m} and D_{1mn} are energy dispersion terms.

Fig. 1 schematically shows transition process in γ_I , γ_{II} and γ_{III} . Herein γ_I , γ_{II} and γ_{III} are transition process resulting from π electron delocalization, transition process resulting from π electron localization and transition process resulting from noncentrosymmetrical structure, respectively. As shown in Fig. 1, one-photon state (low energy) participates in γ_I and γ_{III} but two-photon state (high energy) participates in γ_{II} . Since localization of π electron in manifestation of nonlinear optical effect has a problem on optical responsibility, π electron is required to be delocalized. Therefore, transition process γ_{II} resulting from localization of π electron is not useful. Transition process contributing to γ is γ_I and γ_{III} and both are transition process in two-level system.

Then, the aforementioned equation (II) can be approximately treated as two-level model, where γ can be expressed by the following equation.

$$\gamma \propto (-\mu_{ge}^4 / \omega_{ge}^3) + \mu_{ge}^2 [(\mu_{ee} - \mu_{gg})^2 / \omega_{ge}^3] \quad (IV)$$

wherein μ_{ge} is transition dipole moment between ground (g) state and excited (e) state, μ_{gg} and μ_{ee} indicate dipole moments in ground state and excited state, respectively, and ω_{ge} indicates energy gap between both states. Regarding molecules having centrosymmetry, the aforementioned equation (IV) is expressed as follows:

$$\gamma \propto f_{ge} (L_{ee} - L_{gg}) \quad (V)$$

where f_{ge} is oscillator strength between ground state and excited state, and L_{gg} and L_{ee} indicate extension of electrons in ground state and excited state, respectively.

From the aforementioned equations (IV) and (V), in order to render γ larger, it is required that difference between charge distribution in ground state and that in excited state be large, overlap between electron clouds in ground state and excited state be large, and energy gap between ground state and excited state be large. Here, small energy gap between ground state and excited state has a problem because light transmittance is deteriorated. Therefore, it is important that π electron is delocalized, difference between charge distribution in ground state and that in excited state is large and overlap of electron clouds between both states is large. This is imparted by the structure which has a backbone of a π electron conjugated system as a fundamental skeleton and modifies the electronic state of the π electron conjugated system of the backbone itself. Here, an example of the structure which modifies the electronic state of π electron conjugated backbone itself is a self-doped structure which conjugates with π electron. The iodonium salt structure in the present invention is a self-doped structure and, since it has $d\pi$ electron, it can also conjugates with π electron. Since the iodonium salt structure in the present invention has delocalized π electron, large difference between charge distribution in ground state and that in excited state, and large overlap of electron clouds between both states, it can manifest large γ .

The compound represented by the aforementioned general formula (I) can be used as an organic nonlinear optical material as it is. Alternatively, the compound can be used as an organic nonlinear optical material in a state wherein it is dissolved or dispersed in a low-molecular compound or a high-molecular compound (including prepolymer). Examples of the low-molecular compounds are biphenyl, terphenyl, anthracene, chrysene, benzophen, benzophenone, benzil, pyrene, perylene and carbazole. These low-molecular compounds may be used either alone or in combination of two or more species thereof. Examples of the high-molecular compounds are poly(meth)acrylates such as polymethyl methacrylate, polymers obtained by thermal or photo polymerization of prepolymers described below. These high-molecular compounds may be used either alone or in combination of two or more species thereof. Examples of the prepolymers are ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, diethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, triethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, tetraethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, propylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, dipropylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, tripropylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, butanediol di(meth)acrylate, hexamethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, bis[(meth)acryloxyethyl] phthalate, bis[(meth)acryloxypropyl] phthalate, bis[(meth)acryloxyethyl] isophthalate, bis[(meth)acryloxypropyl] isophthalate, bis[(meth)acryloxyethyl] terephthalate, bis[(meth)acryloxypropyl] terephthalate, bis[(meth)acryloxyethoxyphenyl] propane, bis[(meth)acryloxydiethoxyphenyl] propane, bis[(meth)acryloxypropoxyphenyl] propane, bis[(meth)acryloxydipropoxyphenyl]propane, bisphenol A di(meth)acrylate, hydrogenated bisphenol A di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolmethane-tri(meth)acrylate, trimethylolethane-tri(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane-tri(meth)acrylate, tetramethylolmethane-tri(meth)acrylate, tetram-

ethylolethane-tri(meth)acrylate, tetramethylolpropane-tri(meth)acrylate, tetramethylolmethane-tetra(meth)acrylate, tetramethylolethane-tetra(meth)acrylate, and tetramethylolpropane-tetra(meth)acrylate. These prepolymers may be used either alone or in combination of two or more species thereof. When these prepolymers are used, they are cured with radical polymerization initiator, ultraviolet ray or the like.

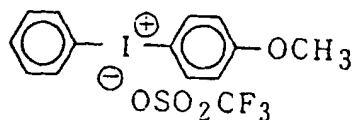
Alternatively, the compound represented by the aforementioned general formula (I) can be used in a state where it is dissolved or dispersed in a liquid medium. Examples of the liquid media are tetrahydrofuran, dichloromethane, trichloromethane, carbon tetrachloride, dichloroethane, dimethylsulfoxide, and chlorobenzene. These liquid media may be used either alone or in combination of two or more species thereof.

The organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention can be applied to nonlinear optical elements as a light transmitting medium or the like for use in waveguide-type or bulk-type all optical switching devices, high-speed optical modulator and the like by utilizing properties such as nonlinear refractive index and nonlinear absorption coefficient thereof. Such nonlinear optical elements may be prepared by appropriate methods such as vacuum deposition method, molecular beam deposition method, molecular beam epitaxial growth method, cluster ion beam method, pulse laser method, spin coating method, dipping method, LB method and roll coating method. The shape of the nonlinear optical element of the present invention is not particularly limited. Examples of the shapes include a film, a sheet, a plate, a rod, a fiber, and a bulk crystal.

The present invention will be described by way of Examples but are not limited thereto.

Example 1

As an example of the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention, there is shown a compound wherein $n=2$, π_1 =phenyl group, π_2 =p-phenylene group, A_1 =trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, $R^1=H$ and R^2 =methoxy group in the general formula (I), i.e., the compound (Compound No. 1) represented by the following formula:



The method for preparing Compound No. 1 is not limited to specified one. For example, Compound No. 1 can be prepared by a chemical synthetic method described in detail in J. Org. Chem., Vol. 57, No. 25, pages 6810-6814 (1992), J. Am. Chem. Soc., Vol. 115, No. 25, pages 11702-11704 (1993), and Bulletin of Society of Organic Synthesis Chemistry, Vol. 53, No. 10, pages 69-81 (1995).

By non-empirical molecular orbital calculation, the electron state of Compound No. 1 was obtained. Fig. 2 three-dimensionally shows highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) corresponding to ground state of the compound and lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) corresponding to excited state, which were obtained by the calculation. In HOMO, π electron is greatly delocalized on the iodine atom, the carbon atom on the benzene ring adjacent to the iodine atom, and the sulfonyl group. On the other hand, in LUMO, π electron is greatly delocalized on the benzene ring. Further, as seen from Fig. 2, difference between charge distribution in HOMO and that in LUMO is large, and overlap between electron clouds of both orbitals is large on the carbon atom on the benzene ring adjacent to the iodine atom. That is, it was found that this compound has delocalized π electron, large difference between charge distribution in ground state and that in excited state, and large overlap between electron clouds in both states. This means that the compound has the structure which has π electron conjugated backbone as a fundamental skeleton and modulates electronic state of π electron conjugated backbone itself.

Fig. 3 shows ultraviolet and visible absorption spectra of Compound No. 1 obtained by semi-empirical molecular orbital calculation and experiment. This compound was found to show light absorption in visible light region and be excellent in light transmittance.

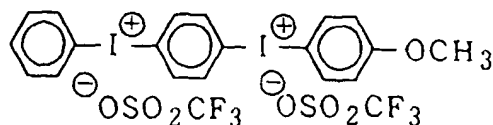
From the electron state obtained by the aforementioned calculation, γ value in electrostatic field, i.e., $\gamma(0;0,0,0)$ value was obtained by using CPHF (dependent coupled perturbed Hartree-Fock) method, which was found to be $\gamma(0;0,0,0)=13 \times 10^{-34}$ esu.

In addition, Compound No. 1 was deposited on a fused silica substrate by a vacuum deposition method to prepare a deposited film. The $\chi^{(3)}$ value of this deposited film was obtained by THG (third harmonic generation)-Maker-fringe method, i.e., by measuring THG of the fused silica having the known $\chi^{(3)}$ value at the same time and determining $\chi^{(3)}$ value from a ratio of THG of the fused silica and that of the sample. At a fundamental wave of $1.06 \mu\text{m}$, $\chi^{(3)}$ value $\sim 10^{-12}$ esu was obtained. That is, it was found that although this compound has high light transmittance in visible light

region, it shows great nonlinear optical constants.

Example 2

As an example of the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention, there is shown a compound wherein $n=3$, π_1 =phenyl group, $\pi_2 = \pi_3$ =p-phenylene group, $A_1=A_2$ =trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, $R^1=H$ and R^2 =methoxy group in the general formula (I), i.e., the compound (Compound No. 2) represented by the following formula:



According to the same calculation method as in Example 1, the $\gamma(0;0,0,0)$ value of this compound was obtained, which was found to be $\gamma(0;0,0,0)=13 \times 10^{-34}$ esu.

In addition, this compound was prepared in the same manner as in Example 1 and the $\chi^{(3)}$ value was obtained by using the same THG-Maker-fringe method, which was found to be $\chi^{(3)}$ value $\sim 10^{-12}$ esu at a fundamental wave of 1.06 μm .

Examples 3-23

Using compounds (Compound Nos. 3-23) shown in Tables 1-3, the same calculation method as in Example 1 was employed to obtain $\gamma(0;0,0,0)$ value, and it was found that all compounds gave large $\gamma(0;0,0,0)$ values.

Table 1

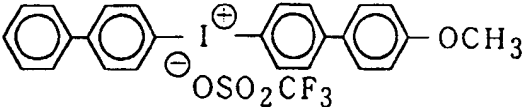
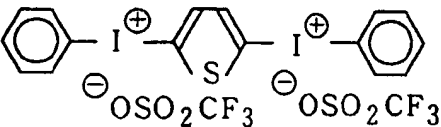
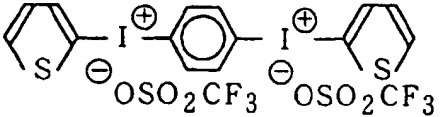
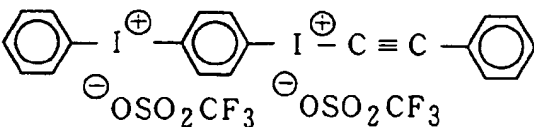
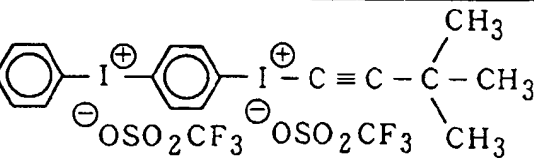
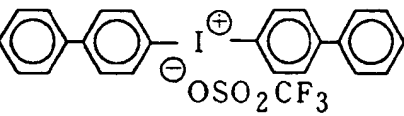
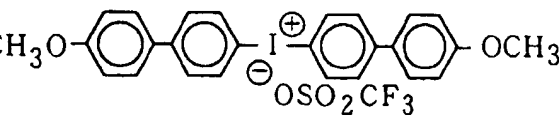
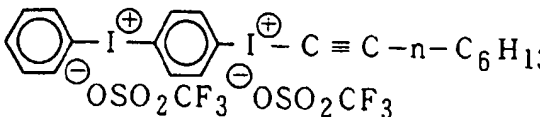
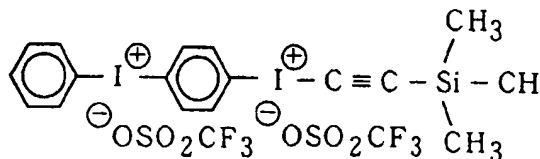
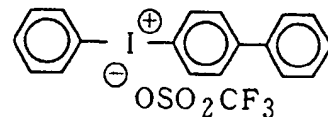
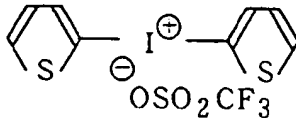
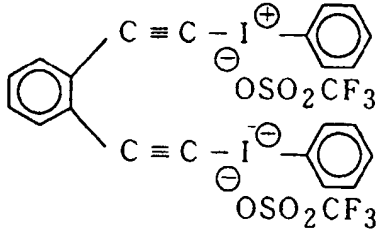
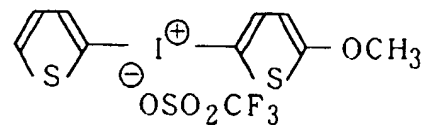
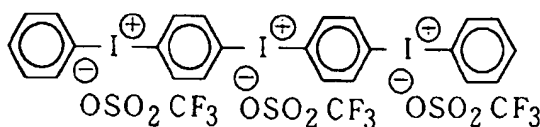
Ex. Compound No.	No.	Structural formula	γ (0;0,0,0) ($\times 10^{-34}$ esu)
3	3		- 25
4	4		- 667
5	5		319
6	6		134
7	7		108
8	8		- 46
9	9		- 26

Table 2

Ex. Compound No.	Structural formula	γ (0:0, 0, 0) ($\times 10^{-34}$ esu)
10		68
11		124
12		124
13		75
14		15
15		31
16		61

Table 3

Ex. Compound No.	No.	Structural formula	γ (0;0,0,0) ($\times 10^{-34}$ esu)
17	17		76
18	18		55
19	19		- 24
20	20		- 87
21	21		- 149
22	22		- 237
23	23		842

Examples 24-25

Compound No. 1 was added to a solution polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) in tetrahydrofuran and mixed uniformly, and the solvent was distilled off to give an organic nonlinear optical material containing Compound No. 1 at 0.005 mol/liter (Example 24). An organic nonlinear optical material containing Compound No. 2 at 0.001 mol/liter was obtained in the same manner as above (Example 25). The same THG-Maker-fringe method as in Example 1 was used to obtain $\chi^{(3)}$ value, which was found to be $\chi^{(3)}$ value $\sim 10^{-12}$ esu at a fundamental wave of 1.06 μm for both materials.

Example 26

Compound No. 1 was deposited on a silica glass substrate of 20 mm \times 10 mm \times 1 mm at a thickness of 2,000 nm by a vacuum deposition method. A waveguide of slab type as shown in Fig. 4 was fabricated using the substrate. In Fig. 4, 1 denotes a waveguide layer composed of the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention (deposited film of Compound No. 1), 2 denotes the silica glass substrate, 3 denotes prisms, 4 denotes incident light, and 5 denotes output light.

Continuous-wave laser light of a wavelength of 830 nm obtained by combining an argon ion laser and a dye laser was allowed to be incident on one prism in the device and the transmitted light which was the light outputted from the other prism was detected with a high-speed photodiode. The incident light was high-speed-modulated at frequency of 1GHz with a high-speed light modulator, a part of which was taken out as trigger. The trigger from the incident light and the output from the transmitted light were inputted to X-Y of an oscilloscope to plot Lissajous's figure, which demonstrates achievement of bistability as shown in Fig. 5. In that case, operation power was in the order of mW and optical bistable device having high-speed responsibility at low threshold was obtained.

In the above-mentioned Example 26, a waveguide of slab type was used. However, a waveguide of channel type can also be used. The means of coupling with input light and output light may be either prism coupling or end-fiber coupling.

Example 27

An optical switching device with Mach-Zehnder type waveguide channel using the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention as shown in Fig. 6 was fabricated. In Fig. 6, 6 denotes a substrate (clad), 7 denotes a waveguide channel (core), 8 denotes a film of the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention. 9 and 10 denote incident light and output light, respectively.

Germanium oxide was doped into a silica glass substrate 6 of 10 mm \times 10 mm \times 1 mm by use of a conventional lithography to form a pattern of Mach-Zehnder waveguide channel 7 wherein the difference in refractive index between the waveguide channel 7 and the substrate was 0.3. The waveguide channel 7 had a size of 8 μm \times 8 μm in its section and the angle between the two branched channels was two degrees. The film 8 was formed by depositing the compound described in Example 2 (Compound No. 2) onto the one of the branched channels 7 in an optical pass length of 3 mm by a vacuum deposition method.

Helium-neon laser light of a wavelength of 633 nm was allowed to be incident as the input light 9 and the output light 10 was detected with a high-speed photodiode. The refractive index of the film 8 of the organic nonlinear optical material varied depending upon the intensity of the input light 9 due to the third-order nonlinear optical effect, thereby causing changes in phase difference between the light beams passing the two branched channels. The intensity of the output light 10 showed a sigmoid change due to interference between the two light beams, which demonstrated that the device of this example acted as an optical switching device with Mach-Zehnder type waveguide channel.

Example 28

An optical switching device with field modulation type waveguide channel using the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention as shown in Fig. 7 was fabricated. In Fig. 7, 11 denotes an electrode (gate) for applying a modulated electric field, 12 denotes an insulating layer, 13 denotes source/drain electrodes, 14 denotes a film of the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention, 15 denotes an overcoat layer, 16 denotes prisms. 17 and 18 denote input light and output light, respectively.

A highly doped silicon substrate was used as the electrode 11 for applying a modulated electric field. The insulating layer 12 was made of silicon oxide. The source/drain electrodes were made of gold and chromium, respectively. The width and length of a channel defined by the source/drain electrodes 13 were 0.8 mm and 10 mm, respectively. The film 14 was formed by depositing the compound described in Example 2 (Compound No. 2) to a thickness of 100 nm onto the insulating layer 12 by a vacuum deposition method. The overcoat layer was formed by using Cytop (made by Asahi Glass Co., Ltd., refractive index: 1.34). The overcoat layer 15 and the film 14 function as a core for the waveguide chan-

nel and the guided light is transmitted between a pair of electrodes 13. The transmittance of the guided light is controlled by applying a gate voltage through the electrode 11, thereby switching the output light 18.

Helium-neon laser light of a wavelength of 633 nm was allowed to be incident as the input light 17 and a modulated voltage of 100 V was applied, providing a modulation factor of 20 % within the range between DC and 10 Hz. Thus, an optical switching operation due to modulation of light intensity was confirmed.

Example 29

The compound described in Example 2 (Compound No. 2) was used to form a thick membrane having a thickness of 5 mm. With use of the membrane, an experiment for a bulk type optical Kerr shutter device utilizing third-order nonlinear optical effect as shown in Fig. 8 was performed. In Fig. 8, 19 denotes a signal light (wavelength: 0.84 μm) including linearly polarized component, 20 denotes a gate light (wavelength: 0.7 μm) and 21 denotes the membrane made of the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention (Compound No. 2). 22, 22 denote first and second polarizers, 23 denotes a filter for removing the gate light and 24 denotes a photodetector.

When the gate light 20 was not applied to the membrane 21, the signal light 19 did not pass through the second polarizer 22 because the first and second polarizers 22, 22 were arranged in a cross-Nicols relationship, so that the light intensity detected with the photodetector 24 was zero. However, when the gate light 20 was applied to the membrane 21, the refractive index of the membrane 21 was changed due to the third-order nonlinear optical effect. As a result, the signal light 19 which had been linearly polarized light became elliptically polarized light, which was able to pass through the second polarizer 22 and detected with the photodetector 24. Thus, an optical Kerr shutter operation was confirmed. The switching speed was in order of not more than nanosecond and a high-speed responsiveness was thus confirmed. The transmission loss of the membrane 21 was not more than 0.1 dB/cm.

Example 30

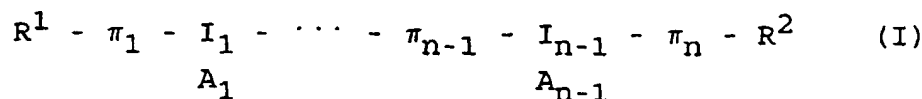
The compound described in Example 2 (Compound No. 2) was synthesized in a glass capillary, yielding an optical fiber of the shape as shown in Fig. 9. In Fig. 9, 25 denotes the glass capillary (clad) and 26 denotes a core made of the organic nonlinear optical material of the present invention (Compound No. 2). The diameter of the core was 125 μm and the length of the fiber was 10 cm.

With use of the optical fiber, the same experiment as in Example 29 for an optical Kerr shutter device was performed. As a result, the signal light intensity obtained with use of the optical fiber type optical Kerr shutter element was about 20 times that obtained with use of the bulk type Kerr shutter element (membrane 21) in Example 29.

As described above, the compound having the iodonium salt structure of the present invention has an advantage that since the compound has large nonlinear optical constants in nonresonant state of a molecule and the compound itself has high light transmittance in visible light region the compound can be easily made into an organic nonlinear optical material having low loss and high efficacy. For this reason, the compound shows the aforementioned nonlinear optical properties superior to those of the conventional organic nonlinear optical materials and, thus, there can be provided an organic nonlinear optical material which is applicable to electrooptical devices and all optical devices for use in optical communication and optical computer.

Claims

1. An organic material for non-linear optical elements, comprising a compound having the iodonium salt structure represented by the general formula (I):



wherein π_1 to π_n are the same or different and each is a group having a π electron, I_1 to I_{n-1} are iodonium cations, A_1 to A_{n-1} are the same or different and each is a counter anion for the iodonium cation, R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an electron donor group, and n is an integer of 2 to 4.

2. The organic material of Claim 1, wherein π_1 to π_n are the same or different and each is selected from the group consisting of benzene, biphenyl, thiophene, acetylene, ethynylbenzene, diethynylbenzene, vinylbenzene, naphthalene and anthracene.

3. The organic material of Claim 1 or 2, wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, alkoxy group, hydroxyl group, amino group, dialkylamino group, alkyl group and trialkylsilyl group.
- 5 4. The organic material of Claim 2 or 3, wherein in the general formula (I), n is 2, π_1 and π_2 are benzene rings, A_1 is trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, R^1 is H and R^2 is methoxy group.
5. The organic material of Claim 2 or 3, wherein in the general formula (I), n is 3, π_1 , π_2 and π_3 are benzene rings, A_1 and A_2 are trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, R^1 is H and R^2 is methoxy group.
- 10 6. The organic material of Claim 2 or 3, wherein in the general formula (I), n is 2, π_1 and π_2 are biphenyl rings, A_1 is trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, R^1 is H and R^2 is methoxy group.
7. The organic material of Claim 2 or 3, wherein in the general formula (I), n is 3, π_1 and π_3 are benzene rings, π_2 is thiophene ring, A_1 and A_2 are trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, and R^1 and R^2 are H.
- 15 8. The organic material of Claim 2 or 3, wherein in the general formula (I), n is 3, π_1 and π_3 are thiophene rings, π_2 is benzene ring, A_1 and A_2 are trifluoromethanesulfonate ion and R^1 and R^2 are H.
- 20 9. The organic material of Claim 2 or 3, wherein in the general formula (I), n is 3, π_1 and π_2 are benzene rings, π_3 is phenyleneethynylene group, A_1 and A_2 are trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, and R^1 and R^2 are H.
10. The organic material of Claim 2 or 3, wherein in the general formula (I), n is 3, π_1 and π_2 are benzene rings, π_3 is ethynylene group, A_1 and A_2 are trifluoromethanesulfonate ion, and R^1 is H, and R^2 is t-butyl group.
- 25 11. An organic material composition comprising at least one compound represented by the general formula (I) set forth in any one of Claims 1 to 10, dissolved or dispersed in a low-molecular compound, a high-molecular compound or a liquid medium.
- 30 12. A nonlinear optical element usable as a light transmitting medium having a nonlinear refractive index or a nonlinear absorption coefficient in combination with an optical element in a nonlinear optical device, the nonlinear optical element comprising an organic material or composition set forth in any one of the Claims 1 to 11.
- 35 13. Use of the organic material or composition set forth in any one of Claims 1 to 11, for the manufacture of a nonlinear optical element.

FIG. 1

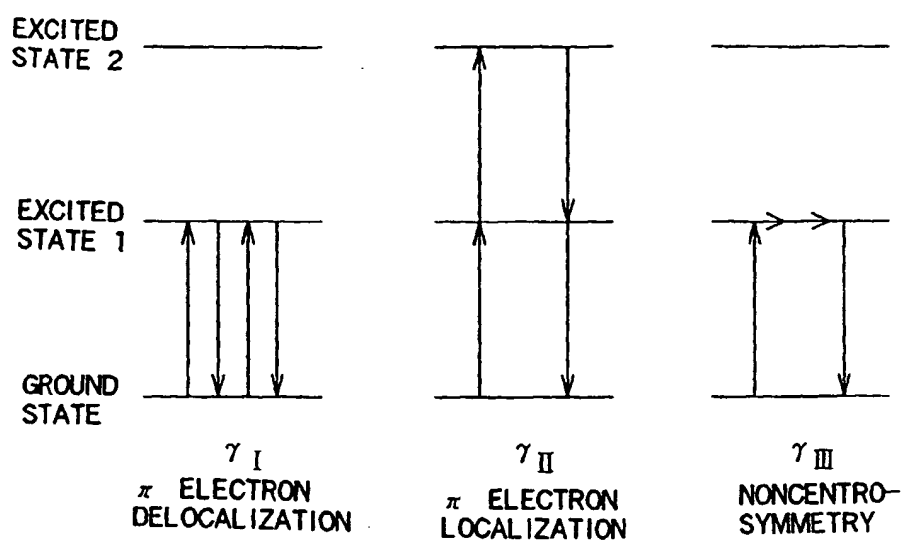
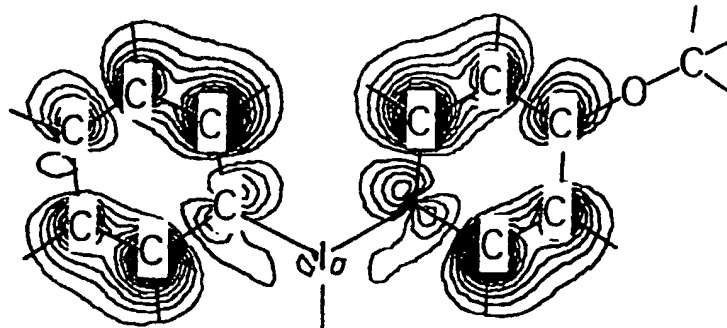


FIG. 2

LUMO



HOMO

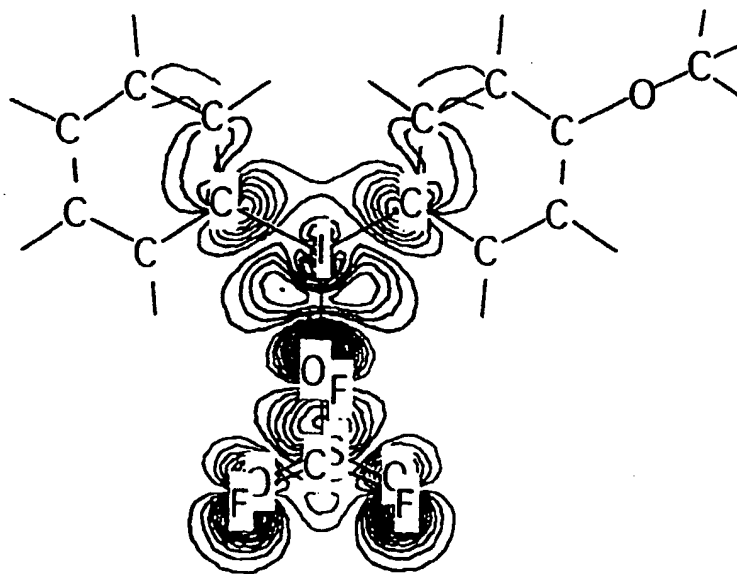


FIG. 3

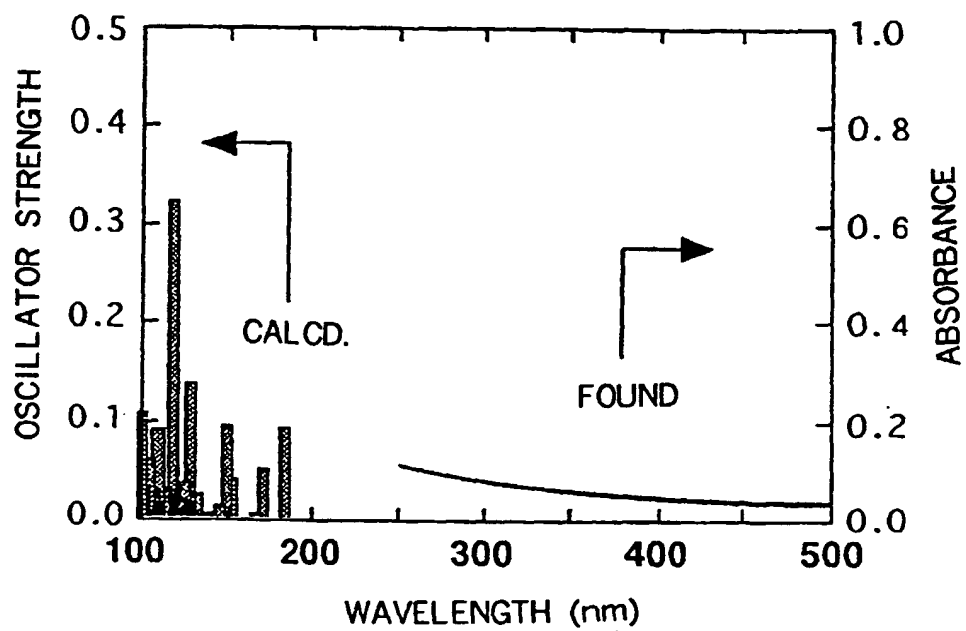


FIG. 4

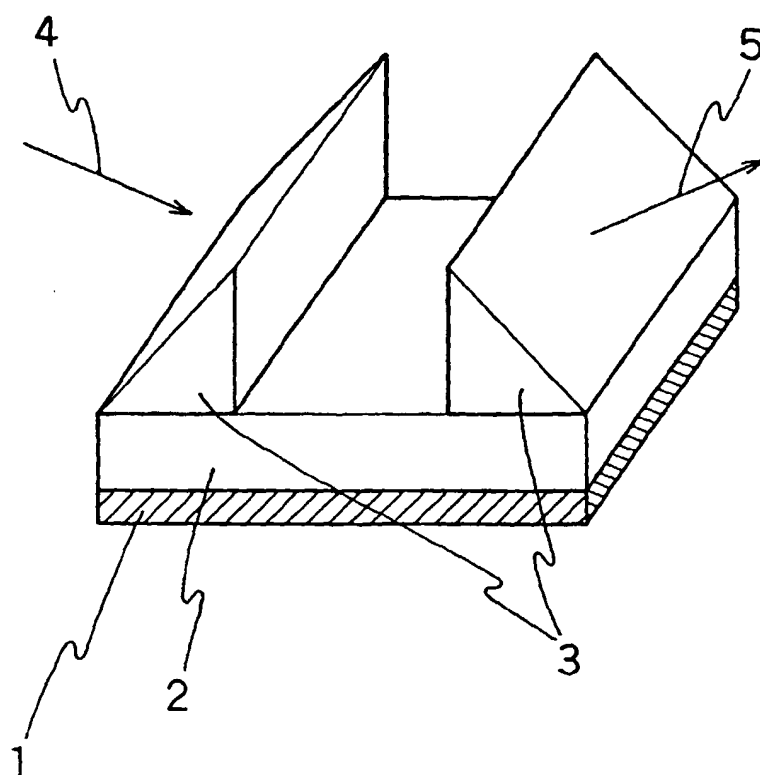


FIG. 5

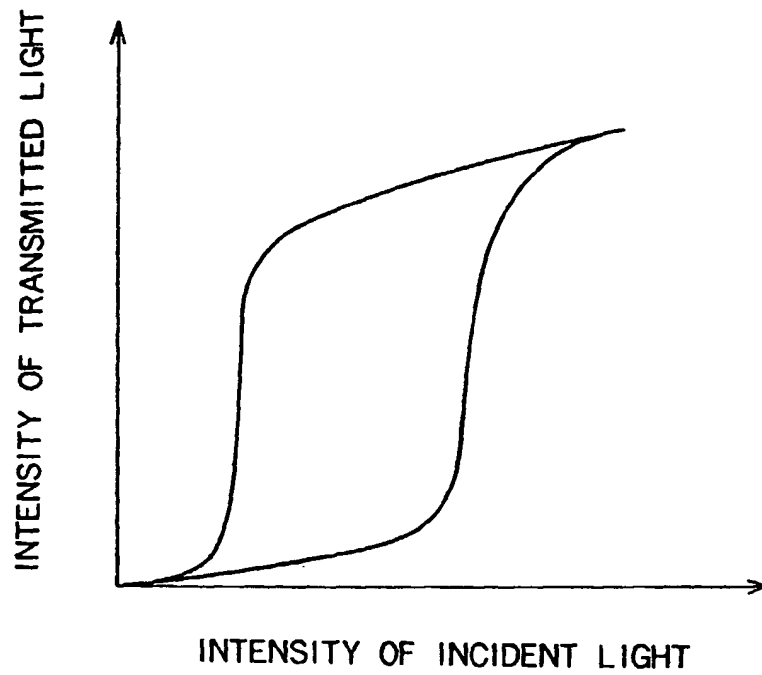


FIG. 6

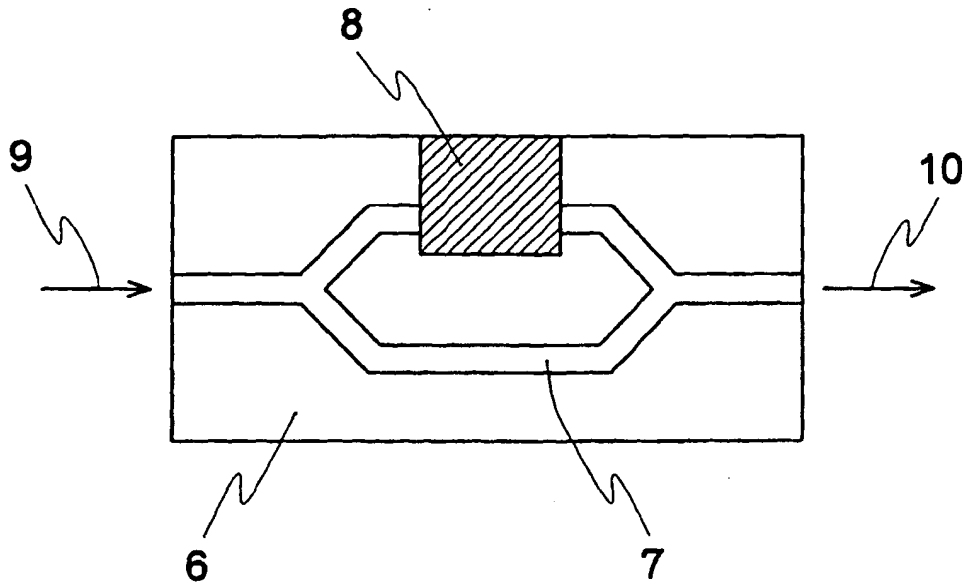


FIG. 7

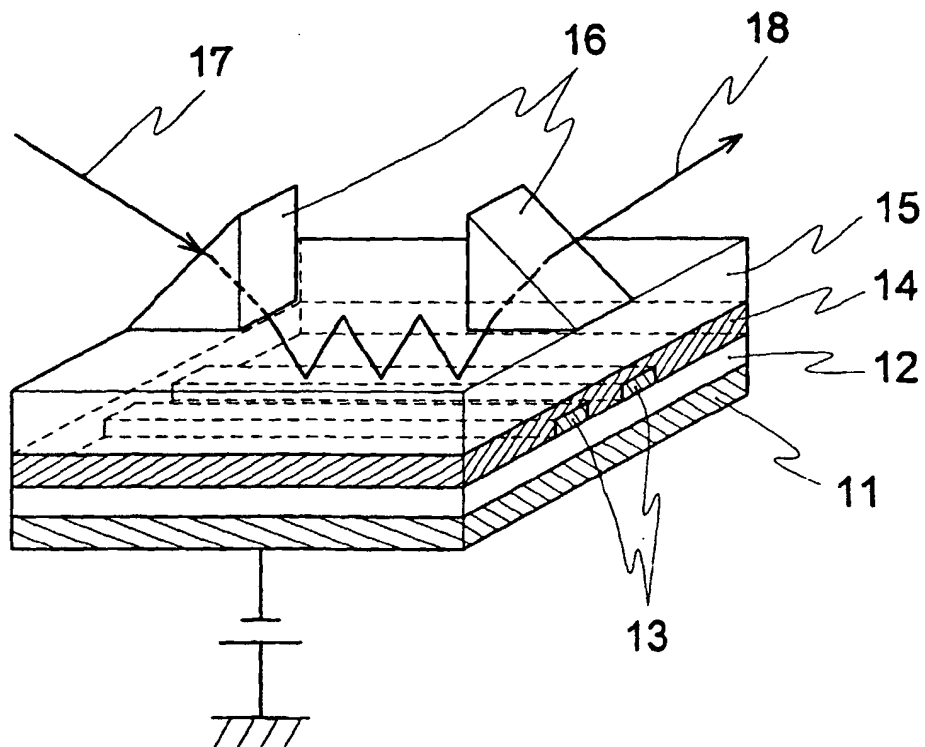


FIG. 8

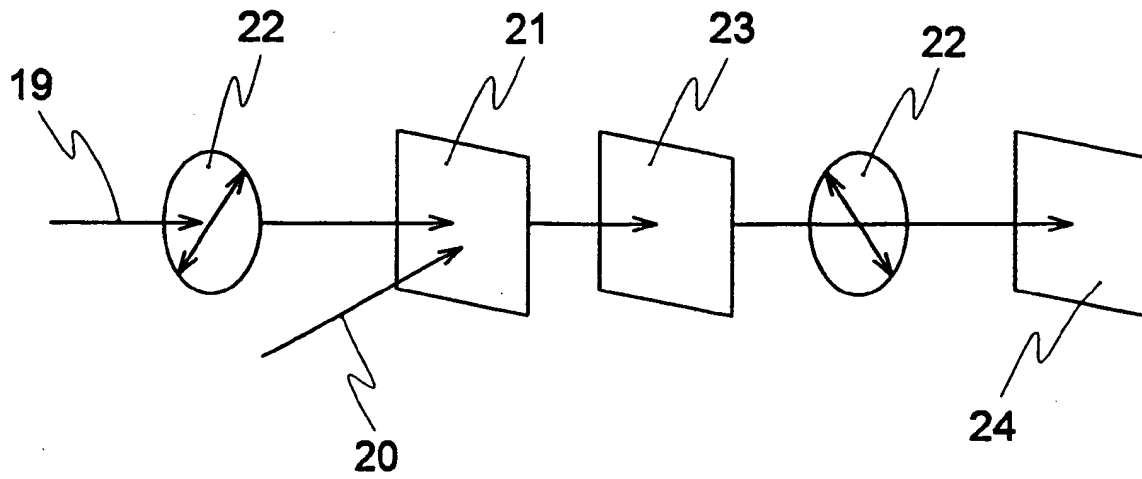
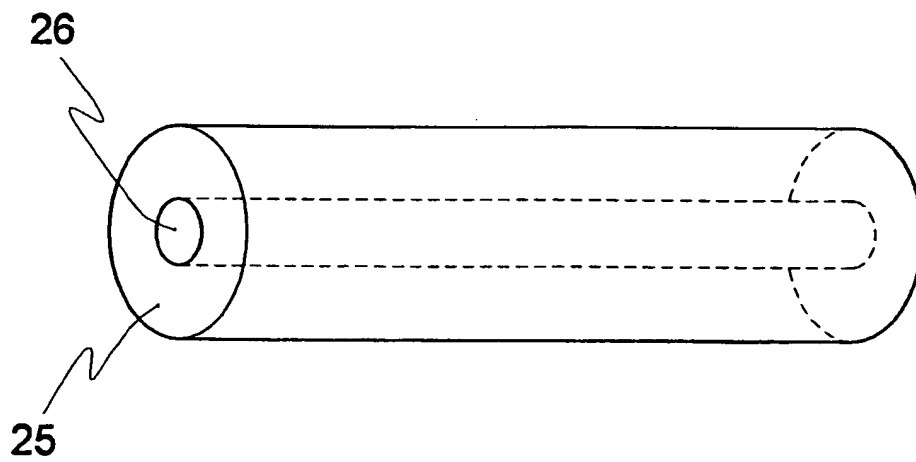


FIG. 9





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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) G02F C07C C07D C07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 1 July 1998	Examiner Puetz, C
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X	US 5 286 901 A (STANG ET AL.) 15 February 1994 * column 1, line 25 - line 36 * * column 7, line 27 - line 34 *	1-3		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 1 July 1998	Examiner Puetz, C	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 1 July 1998	Examiner Puetz, C
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